ShelterCluster.org Webtools and Companion Mobile Application Draft 2.0

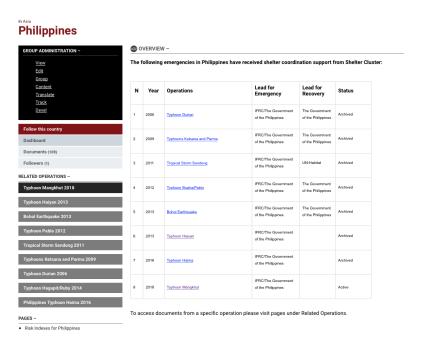


Overview

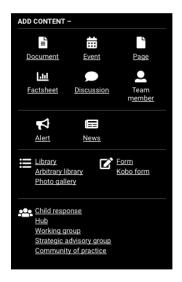
The ShelterCluster.org web platform has been developed to serve as the information hub and institutional memory of the many country-level responses that have been supported through the cluster approach since its inception in 2006. In its original format it served as a centralized location for storing documents that were developed during responses or from the global level but has incrementally been developed and improved to support many more information and communications functions. It is envisioned that this development evolution will continue and support more sophisticated digital information exchanges between the growing number of stakeholders in this humanitarian partnership.

Institutional Memory

This website at its core is an online record of the many responses, materials, guidance and products developed in responses around the world. Some countries, prone to natural disasters or countries that have had cluster presence through many years of protracted crisis have many examples of various strategic, coordination, technical and IM products that can be referred to for future responses.



Types of Content



Documents: Centralizing the storage of documents is an important dimension of the website's purpose. Documents have a tagging protocol that assists with searching and filtering of results to make it easier for users to locate material that is most relevant to them. Future plans: A review of the tagging protocol and taxonomy along with a revision to how document attributes are applied.

Events: Events for groups are stored on the website for public viewing. These events include attributes such as location, time, date, etc. but can also be linked to relevant documents such as presentations.

Future plans: Streamline creation of events (March 2020) and eventually make it easier for users to synchronize their calendars with events on groups.

Pages: Unique bespoke pages of static curated content can be crafted using WYSIWYG editors including images, text, and graphics. This can be structured in a variety of layout formats using style templates.

Factsheets: Standardized templates for response-level Factsheets are available online for easy populating by group administrators.

Future plans: Customizable infographics that aggregates among many global response Factsheets to give a better understanding of global level effort in the sector.

Discussions: Groups can enable online discussions or comments on uploaded content; however, this is limited at the moment until moderation protocols are developed. Future plans: Using the website to allow a more social exchange of ideas among authenticated users of the website or mobile app.

Team Members: Visibility and contact details of Coordination Team Members so that they can be contacted as required by group stakeholders.

Library: This option enables a library to be created according to a specific topic. Every time a document is uploaded to the website and is tagged according to the appropriate taxonomy it will be added to this library automatically. A popular kind of library is Minutes for Cluster meetings. By setting up a library tagged to meeting minutes, each time a document is tagged to meeting minutes, it will be filtered to this library.

Arbitrary Library: This option is available if the coordination team would like to call out a series of documents without linking it through the taxonomies. This enables the coordinator to control which specific documents go into a library. The coordination team will have to manually add a document already on the website to this library.

Hub: If the Shelter Cluster in country has one or more subnational hubs, this option enables the Subnational Shelter Cluster to have a dedicated set of content. In a hub, the Subnational Shelter Cluster can create its own pages, libraries, events, arbitrary libraries or dashboards.

Communications: The website and the companion mobile application aims to facilitate and record a variety of communication channels between those who are providing coordination support and the stakeholders and partners within a group. As this develops, more two-way exchange of information between the operational setting of a response and the coordination services that support it can be expected.

Alerts: Group administrators can send instant mobile alerts to the mobile followers of a group using the ShelterCluster App. This means that mobile users will be instantly notified to their connected device of any important information that needs rapid dissemination. This could be security alerts, updates to changes in meetings, or simply additional available documents on the website.

Future plans: Coordination Team administrators could target specific users or users who may be conveniently geographically located may be alerted to provide unique observations of a remote situation on behalf of the cluster. (See data collection)

News: The Shelter Cluster team has enabled email communication using Mailchimp/Mandrill services which allows for basic dissemination and recording of group email communications to a specific contact list for each response. This allows for periodic emailing of group updates to web content as well as bespoke 1-way email communication.

Future plans: Developing this further to allow for two-way email exchange for a group. This would enable a native solution for Communities of Practice and create a more collaborative online environment through the platform.

Data Collection: At the heart of the mobile application is the ability to leverage the mobile presence of Shelter Cluster stakeholders in the operational area to coordinate the collection of information of various types. Combining the communications technologies embedded in the website and the app, the Shelter Cluster can more systematically and rapidly collect data and broaden methods of gaining situational awareness. For example, in areas where travel access may be challenging to assessment staff enumerators, the data collection effort may be distributed among those who already may be present in those locations. Likewise, the operational agencies in a response can now be coordinated to record structured observations of what they see in the field that can, in turn, create a better situational awareness of how the shelter and settlement situation is evolving, conduct market surveys, or gain greater understanding of area-based programming.

Forms: The Global Shelter Cluster team is in the process of creating a library of data collection tools and templates that can be rapidly copied and localized to fit a unique field situation. These templates are transferable between responses. Form fields

created on the ShelterCluster.org website are compatible with other mobile data collection tools such as Kobo. This allows both agencies and coordination support teams to exchange this information as seamlessly as possible between their preferred data collection platform using established questionnaires and standardized reporting. Future plans: Provide ways for Shelter Cluster administrators to directly target data surveying to specific users, specific geographic regions, or users that may act as key informants via the mobile application.

Other Future Plans:

Agency Profiles: The ShelterCluster.org web platform can consolidate information on the operational presence and plans of the partners working in a response. We aim to give more visibility to those efforts and allow a single point of entry for donors and coordination teams to engage with those organizations and give an improved view of the overall response and the actors within it.

Learning Management: Online learning resources are one of the ways that the shelter cluster can provide outreach to partners and advocate for the shelter sector. A growing number of learning modules such as "More than Just a Roof" are being made available by partner agencies and the ShelterCluster.org website can be one of the online resources to help with the dissemination of that material.